

I claim:

[c1] A system for analyzing a presort mailing consistent with USPS requirements comprising:

a processor comprising memory;

logic for importing a designated database, said database describing a mailing in a format of a collection of files describing the mailing conforming to a standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a presorted mailing;

a plurality of alternative option sets for presort mailings;

logic for inputting said option sets;

logic for analyzing each option set in combination with the database information such that an analysis for each option set produces a modeled mailing presort and calculates resultant cost and effects;

storage for storing input, imported files and resultant cost and effects; and

logic for presenting said resultant cost and effects.

[c2] The system of claim [c1] wherein at least one option set comprises parameters not supported by USPS regulations.

[c3] The system of claim [c1] wherein the presentation of the resultant cost and effects is unique for each option set.

[c4] The system of claim [c1] further comprising:

logic for identifying packages of mail contained in the imported designated database; and

logic for sorting said packages by container consistent with modeled mailing presort and consistent with the analysis for each option set.

- [c5] The system of claim [c3] further comprising:
logic for computing an optimum presort strategy for the identified packages; and
logic for calculating a figure of merit for the analysis for each option set.
- [c6] The system of claim [c1] wherein said cost comprises a cost to the USPS of processing the presort mailing.
- [c7] The system of claim [c1] wherein said cost comprises a cost of postage for the presort mailing.
- [c8] The system of claim [c1] wherein said cost comprises a cost of processing the presort mailing as incurred in the preparation of the mailing.
- [c9] The system of claim [c1] further comprising logic for calculating an average delivery factor for said modeled mailing presort wherein the average delivery factor represents effects on postal delivery for a presort mailing.
- [c10] The system of claim [c3] wherein the processor further comprises logic for presenting results of the analysis for each option set such that the cost and effects are compared.
- [c11] The system of claim [c2] wherein the processor further comprises logic for presenting resultant cost and effects in a form sufficient for creating a Negotiated Service Agreement between USPS and the mailer.
- [c12] The system of claim [c2] wherein the processor further comprises logic for presenting resultant cost and effects in a form sufficient for creating a Niche Classification agreement between USPS and the mailer.
- [c13] The system of claim [c1] further comprising logic for deriving a presort job file for any of the plurality of option sets of a user's choosing.
- [c14] The system of claim [c13] further comprising logic for formatting the presort job file in a format consistent with the format required by a specific presort program.

[c15] The system of claim [c1] further comprising logic for deriving a parameter file implicit in the imported database, said parameter file comprising options and parameters used to create the imported database.

[c16] The system of claim [c1] further comprising:
logic for importing Name and Address Label file of a presort mailing inherent in the imported database;

logic for allowing a user to choose a preferred option set;

logic for sorting the name and address entries in a modeled mailing presort order resulting from the analysis using the preferred option set; and

logic for creating a sorted name and address entries file sufficient for printing mailing labels in the modeled mailing presort order resulting from the analysis using the preferred option set.

[c17] The system of claim [c1] further comprising:

logic for allowing a user to choose a preferred option set; and

logic for creating a new database, said database consistent with the preferred option set and consistent with presort mailing industry requirements in describing a mailing in a format standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a presorted mailing.

[c18] The system of claim [c1] further comprising an interface for substituting an actual value parameter for an estimated parameter or an omitted parameter.

[c19] The system of claim [c18] wherein the actual value parameter is the weight of a mail piece.

[c20] The system of claim [c18] wherein the actual value parameter is a percentage of

advertising contained in a periodical to be mailed.

[c21] The system of claim [c18] wherein the actual value parameter is a mailing location.

[c22] The system of claim [c1] wherein the logic for presenting said resultant cost and effects further comprises logic for exporting the resultant cost and effects to a spreadsheet.

[c23] The system of claim [c1] wherein the logic for presenting said resultant cost and effects further comprises logic for displaying the resultant cost and effects on a display.

[c24] A method for analyzing a presort mailing consistent with USPS requirements comprising:

importing a designated database, said database describing a mailing in a format of a collection of files describing the mailing conforming to a standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a presorted mailing;

importing a plurality of option sets for presort mailings;

storing said option sets;

analyzing each option set in combination with the database information to produce an analysis for each option set, the analysis comprising modeling a modeled mailing presort and computing the resultant cost and effects; and

presenting said resultant cost and effects.

[c25] The method of claim [c24] wherein at least one option set of the plurality of option sets comprises parameters not supported by USPS regulations.

[c26] The method of claim [c24] wherein the presenting of resultant cost and effects are unique for each option set.

[c27] The method of claim [c24] further comprising:
identifying packages of mail contained in the imported designated database; and
sorting said packages by container consistent with the modeled mailing presort
and consistent with the option set incorporated in the analysis.

[c28] The method of claim 27 further comprising:
computing an optimum presort strategy for the identified packages of mail; and
calculating a figure of merit for the option set incorporated in the analysis.

[c29] The method of claim [c24] wherein said cost comprises a cost to the USPS of
processing the presort mailing.

[c30] The method of claim [c24] wherein said cost comprises a cost of postage for the
presort mailing.

[c31] The method of claim [c24] wherein said cost comprises a cost of processing the
presort mailing as incurred in the preparation of the mailing.

[c32] The method of claim [c24] wherein said effects comprises an average delivery
factor for said mailing

[c33] The method of claim [c26] wherein the presenting of the resultant cost and
effects for the analysis for each option set comprises presenting cost and effects
such that a user can compare the results of the analysis for each option set.

[c34] The method of claim [c25] wherein the presenting of the cost and effects
comprises presenting cost and effects such that the resultant cost and effects are
used as a basis for a Negotiated Service Agreement between USPS and the
mailer.

[c35] The method of claim [c25] wherein the presenting of cost and effects comprises
presenting resultant cost and effects in a form sufficient for creating a basis for a

Niche Classification agreement between USPS and the mailer.

[c36] The method of claim [c24] further comprising creating a presort job file for any option set of a user's choosing.

[c37] The method of claim [c36] wherein the creating a presort job file comprising creating a file in a format consistent with the format required by a specific presort program of the user's choosing.

[c38] The method of claim [c24] further comprising deducing options and parameters in an option set inherent in the imported database.

[c39] The method of claim [c24] further comprising:
importing a Name and Address Label file associated with a presort mailing

inherent in the imported database;

a user choosing a preferred option set;

sorting the name and address entries in an modeled mailing presort order
resulting from the analysis using the preferred option set; and

creating a sorted name and address entries file sufficient for printing mailing
labels in the modeled mailing presort order resulting from the analysis using the
preferred option set.

[c40] The method of claim [c24] further comprising:

a user to choosing a preferred option set; and

creating a new database, said database consistent with the preferred option set
and consistent with presort mailing industry requirements in describing a mailing in a
format standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a
presorted mailing.

- [c41] The method of claim [c24] further comprising substituting an actual value parameter for an estimated parameter or an omitted parameter.
- [c42] The method of claim [c41] wherein the actual value parameter is a weight of a mail piece.
- [c43] The method of claim [c 41] wherein the actual value parameter is a percentage of advertising contained in a periodical to be mailed.
- [c44] The method of claim [c41] wherein the actual value parameter is a mailing location.
- [c45] The method of claim [c24] wherein the presenting said resultant cost and effects comprises exporting said resultant cost and effects to a spreadsheet.
- [c46] The method of claim [c24] wherein the presenting said resultant cost and effects comprises displaying said resultant cost and effects on a display.
- [c47] A system for analyzing a presort mailing consistent with USPS requirements comprising:
- a processor comprising memory;
 - logic for importing a designated database, said database describing a mailing in a format of a collection of files describing the mailing conforming to a standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a presorted mailing;
 - an option set for presort mailing;
 - logic for inputting said option set;
 - logic for analyzing the option set in combination with the designated database such that an analysis for the option set produces a modeled mailing presort and calculates resultant cost and effects;

storage for storing input, imported files and resultant cost and effects; and
logic for presenting said resultant cost and effects.

[c48] The system of claim [c47] wherein the option set comprises a parameter not supported by USPS regulations.

[c49] The system of claim [c47] further comprising:
logic for identifying packages of mail contained in the imported designated database; and
logic for sorting said packages by container consistent with modeled mailing presort and consistent with the analysis.

[c50] The system of claim [c47] further comprising:
logic for computing an optimum presort strategy; and
logic for calculating a figure of merit for the option set incorporated in the analysis.

[c51] The system of claim [c48] wherein the logic for presenting cost and effects is structured such that the presentation is in a form sufficient for creating a Negotiated Service Agreement between USPS and the mailer.

[c52] The system of claim [c48] wherein the logic for presenting cost and effects is structured such that the presentation is in a form sufficient for creating a Niche Classification agreement between USPS and the mailer.

[c53] The system of claim [c49] further comprising:
logic for importing Name and Address Label file of a presort mailing inherent in the imported database;

logic for sorting the name and address entries in a modeled mailing presort order resulting from the analysis; and

logic for creating a sorted name and address entries file sufficient for printing mailing labels in the modeled mailing presort order resulting from the analysis using the option set.

[c54] The system of claim [c47] further comprising:

logic for creating a new database, said database consistent with the option set and consistent with presort mailing industry requirements in describing a mailing in a format standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a presorted mailing.

[c55] The system of claim [c47] further comprising an interface for substituting an actual value parameter for an estimated parameter or an omitted parameter.

[c56] The system of claim [c55] wherein the actual value parameter is the weight of a mail piece.

[c57] The system of claim [c55] wherein the actual value parameter is a percentage of advertising contained in a periodical to be mailed.

[c58] The system of claim [c55] wherein the actual value parameter is a mailing location.

[c59] A method for analyzing a presort mailing consistent with USPS requirements comprising:

importing a designated database, said database describing a mailing in a format of a collection of files describing the mailing conforming to a standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a presorted mailing;

inputting an option set for presort mailings;
storing said option set;
analyzing the option set in combination with the database information such
that an analysis produces a modeled mailing presort and a resultant cost and
effects; and
presenting said resultant cost and effects.

[c60] The method of claim [c59] wherein the option set comprises a parameter not
supported by USPS regulations.

[c61] The method of claim [c59] further comprising:
identifying packages of mail contained in the imported designated database; and
sorting said packages by container consistent with modeled mailing presort and
consistent with the analysis.

[c62] The method of claim [c59] further comprising:
computing an optimum presort strategy for the identified packages of mail; and
calculating a figure of merit for the option set incorporated in the analysis.

[c63] The method of claim [c60] wherein the presenting of the cost and effects
comprises presenting cost and effects in a form sufficient for creating a basis for
a Negotiated Service Agreement between USPS and the mailer.

[c64] The method of claim [c60] wherein the presenting of cost and effects comprises
presenting cost and effects in a form sufficient for creating a basis for a Niche
Classification agreement between USPS and the mailer.

[c65] The method of claim [c59] further comprising:
importing Name and Address Label file inherent in the imported database;

sorting the name and address entries in the modeled mailing presort order that reflects the analysis; and

creating a sorted name and address entries file sufficient for printing mailing labels in the modeled mailing presort order resulting from the analysis using the option set.

[c66] The method of claim [c59] further comprising:

creating a new database, said database consistent with the option set and consistent with presort mailing industry requirements in describing a mailing in a format standard for communicating information relating to the composition of a presorted mailing.

[c67] The method of claim [c59] further comprising substituting an actual value parameter for an estimated parameter or an omitted parameter.

[c68] The method of claim [c67] wherein the actual value parameter is a weight of a mail piece.

[c69] The method of claim [c67] wherein the actual value parameter is a percentage of advertising contained in a periodical to be mailed.

[c70] The method of claim [c67] wherein the actual parameter is a mailing location.